

REMARKS

An interview was conducted with the Examiner on 28 April 2005, at which time the pending prior art rejections were discussed, particularly in view of Applicants' proposed amendments to claim 52 to define the specific diseases diagnosed in a single step. In accordance with that discussion, all of the independent claims in the application have been amended to define the specific diseases being diagnosed, and that the detection step is performed in a single step (namely step a in each claim).

During the interview, the Examiner also questioned the full meaning in the art of the term "bronchiectasis". This term is understood in the art to be a common word for a disease, the causes and symptoms of which are understood by those skilled in the art as being, for example, those described by the enclosed portions from the Canadian Lung Association website and the US National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health website Medline.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are patentable over the prior art and are, therefore, in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Leonard R. Svensson (Reg. No. 30,330) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

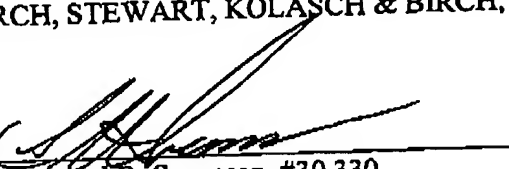
Appl. No. 10/019,248

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP


By


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LRS/limit
1390-0126P

Attachment(s)

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